

**CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WELLNESS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday, March 26, 2012

(Rescheduled from March 19, 2012)

4:00 p.m.

Briggs Building (Reed Conference Room)

845 Park Avenue

MINUTES

A meeting of the Wellness Sub-committee was held on the above date at 4:00 p.m. with the following members present: Janice Ruggieri, Aaron Lenart, Deborah Greifer, Jeannine Nota-Masse, Joanne Valk, Karin Wetherill, and Tammy Eaton.

Mrs. Ruggieri announced to the members that the Phys. Ed. grant that they have been working on was pulled because there is no funding for it. They're using all of the funding that they received this year to finish out the proposals they had accepted from last year and they don't think they will be getting any money for next year. This was the Carol White Grant. This issue was discussed at length. It was noted that this would have been a five year plan and would have been great for the district.

Before getting into policies, Mrs. Ruggieri went around to the members to get updates from them.

Mr. Lenart from Sodexo announced that in regards to the “Breakfast in the Classroom”, the pilot classroom has begun at Edgewood Highland. They will be starting within the week because they are still waiting for equipment to come in. They did take some people around Providence last week. They will pilot one school for a week or so and then they will break it to two more schools before the end of the year. A question was asked regarding how they decide to add schools and which ones they will go with. Mr. Lenart answered that he went with the first person who wanted to do it and Mrs. Gamba wanted to be involved when it first came up. He noted that they started with schools that are a little bit easier to pilot out (for example Edgewood has all one floor). A discussion ensued in regards to the time the breakfast takes in the morning, the emptying of the trash, how the teacher shares the responsibilities with the children in the class, etc. It was also noted that the teacher really sees the difference in the kids when they have breakfast in the morning. It is still an option of the child if they want breakfast; however, when it first comes out they have a meal for every child. After doing it for a while, they adjust how many meals they send out depending on each classroom. The choice of breakfast was also discussed. Also discussed in regards to this pilot was the following;

- Using the bags of cut fruit twice per week**
- Some of the breakfast food selections were discussed**
- How the items are prepared**

- Spoke on healthier food which is not so processed; for example, muffins
- Using RI carrots and apples when available
- Discussed on some of the items that Providence sampled as healthier and not so processed
- Cleanliness factor was brought up and discussed

Ms. Wetherill shared with the committee a fundraiser that the Nathan Bishop PTO is holding to raise money without having to worry about selling the cookie dough, candy, candles, etc. She noted that not only does this fundraiser save time for the parents but it is also very successful and very simple. It is called “Can You \$PARE A DOLLAR?” (Copy of this Fundraiser Sheet is on file in the Assistant Superintendent’s Office)

Mrs. Ruggieri presented a new policy “School Bus Advertising Policy”, which she has been working on. (Please see policy attached)

The following was discussed in regards to this policy:

- Several States don’t have policies or guidelines; some did but they weren’t specific to what we are looking at
- Mrs. Ruggieri took some of that information as to where advertising could be placed
- Copies of the policy were handed out to the members to review with Mrs. Ruggieri
- This policy, once we are done adding, deleting, etc., will go back to the School Committee which is their procedure. A policy is read

twice before it's finalized and approved.

- This is a good starting point and Mrs. Ruggieri wants to make sure that we are continuing to follow our Wellness Guidelines.**
- We don't want to start promoting things that don't fall into place with what "wellness" stands for as far as the community.**
- Other States basically hired a company to deal with the marketing advertising.**
- This advertising will go both inside and outside of the bus**
- Mrs. Ruggieri is waiting on the size of advertising; she wants to speak to Mr. Zisseron about this first**
- The Mayor has indicated that he was not willing to float any kind of bond for any type of purchase of buses**
- We have just over 80 buses in our fleet**
- How would they pick the buses; would it be randomly or pick and choose**
- Making discounts for Cranston based companies**
- Mrs. Greifer asked if we could have Mr. Zisseron at the next meeting to discuss laws, safety issues, etc.**
- There are no districts in Rhode Island that do the bus advertising yet because it has not been passed by the General Assembly**

• Mrs. Ruggieri noted that because the City Council forwarded this through to the General Assembly with no parameters and the General

Assembly is putting it through with no parameters, she felt that for Cranston as a district, we have a wellness policy and we adhere to that policy and she would rather have this in place so that if it comes down with a yes, then we can just go ahead and implement it.

- We would put an RFP out for advertising and marketing firms and start getting revenue in. Also discussed was how we would pay for the marketing firm; it was answered that if we put an RFP out to a company and we are looking for advertisers; that would be included and their fee would come out of the advertising.**

- Addressed what would happen if the district decides to privatize the buses. It was noted that since we would no longer own the buses, we would no longer have advertising or receive revenue from any kind of advertising.**

A discussion ensued related to the above policy.

Tammy Eaton presented her draft of a new policy called, “Classroom Party and Birthday Celebration Policy”. (See the attached policy)

Mrs. Ruggieri noted that with this policy we wanted to leave it up to the principals, how they want to handle celebrations but we also want to give the principals support and backup so that it doesn't come down to them always having to say that there is no birthday food allowed. This way they can just refer to the District Policy. This will be added to the existing Wellness Policy; and perhaps sent home with children in the beginning of the year. Mrs. Greifer added that it

would be nice to have this policy in a couple of different languages other than English, i.e. Spanish, Cambodian, etc. It was noted that this policy was clear cut and looks good for a first reading.

Mrs. Ruggieri noted that Kiersten Marek was doing the Recess Policy and she is not present tonight so we will hear her presentation at the next meeting.

Mr. Lenart reported on the “Future Chef Competition” for the middle schools that was held on March 8th at Park View Middle School. Both he and Mrs. Ruggieri were present (Mrs. Ruggieri was a judge) and they noted how great this contest went. Mr. Lenart reported that they had six students compete, three from Park View and three from Bain. They had thirty entries; some were done as an assignment. They voted on who had the best recipes and who put in the most effort. There were three judges. Mrs. Ruggieri complemented on the food noting that it looked very professional and they did a great job with the presentation and the food was really great tasting. It was noted also that it was a nice experience for the students. The recipe that won was a frittata and was delicious. It was noted that every district with Sodexo in Rhode Island did it. Out of those districts all of the winners will be in the running for representing the best in Rhode Island. They will do a video of the winner and his presentation and that will be put on-line and anyone will be able to go on-line and vote for it.

Also, the student who won in Cranston received an IPOD Touch. Next

year the high school students will have the same experience.

The next meeting of the Wellness Sub-committee will be held on Wednesday, May 16th at 4:00 p.m. here in the Briggs Building Conference Room.

There being no further business to discuss with this sub-committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Leone

Recording Secretary

Policy #

CLASSROOM PARTY AND BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION POLICY

Cranston Public Schools recognizes that birthdays are a special day for our students. We must ensure that party celebrations do not disrupt the learning process. Additionally, Cranston Public Schools adheres to the Wellness Policy that recognizes the importance of wellness, good nutrition and an active lifestyle in the overall health of our students. Cranston Public Schools and our staff are responsible for positively influencing student beliefs and habits in these areas. Frequent birthday celebrations with cookies, cupcakes, and other

sweets are not in alignment with these learning goals.

As much as we would love to celebrate each child's birthday with a party, we are unable to do so without interfering with their academic studies. Therefore, birthday parties in which treats and/or snacks are brought to school will not be permitted. Cranston Public Schools realizes that it does not seem like much instructional time is lost for recognizing a birthday, but when you multiply the time by 20 to 25 students, it adds up to the equivalent of one or more days of lost instruction. Also, there are a number of students throughout our district that have health concerns related to food, including allergies, diabetes, etc.

Cranston Public Schools would also like to ask parents to not send in birthday party invitations with their child unless every child in the classroom will be receiving one. It is very upsetting to those students who do not receive an invitation. Invitations to individual children may be given at the end of the school day to the child directly or to their parent/guardian.

If parents would like to recognize their child on their special day, there are a number of non-food options available, such as: sending in pencils, erasers, and/or stickers for every child. Other suggestions include, the child donating a book to his/her class library or an educational game to his/her classroom. Parents could also arrange a time during the day, when you might visit your child's classroom and read their favorite book to the class. How birthdays are celebrated will be up to the discretion of each principal for their school.

Policy Adopted: CRANSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Resolution No: CRANSTON, RI

School Bus Advertising Policy Policy #

Cranston School District will hire a company to operate and maintain the marketing/advertising program for school buses. This company shall be chosen through a request for proposal process (RFP).

Approval of Advertisements

Final approval of advertisers must be made by a majority vote of the School Committee.

Advertisements must meet restrictions and guidelines in order to be eligible for approval.

Advertising Restrictions/Guidelines:

The following restrictions for advertising will be in place for all advertisements placed on school buses.

The advertising will not:

- **Promote violence, hostility or disorder**
- **Promote any religious or political organization**
- **Promote, favor or oppose any candidacy, bond issue, budget issue, or public questions submitted for any election**
- **Promote any private or charter schools**
- **Be obscene or pornographic as defined by local standards**
- **Override any existing school policies for standards of wellness, health or other policies**
- **Attack ethnic, racial, or religious groups/organizations**
- **Discriminate against any person or group of persons based on gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity/expression**
- **Promote the use of tobacco, firearms, alcohol, prescription or narcotic drugs or other products that are geared toward adults**
- **Override the school/school district identity**
- **Interfere with the safety and recognition of a school bus**
- **Use any district or school logo without prior approval**
- **Be slanderous**
- **Imply or declare the endorsement of the product or service by the school district**

Advertiser Responsibilities

The advertiser will be responsible to pay the district and its' contractors for all costs related to advertising on the school buses, including but not limited to:

- **Storing advertising**
- **Retrofitting buses**
- **Attaching advertisements**
- **Related maintenance**
- **Monthly advertising placement fees**
- **Removal of advertising**

Exterior Bus Advertising Placement

- **Advertisements placed on exterior of buses must not be _____ in size.**
- **Only one advertisement per exterior side of bus (total of 3 per bus – 1 on each side and one in back)**
- **May not extend from the body of the bus**
- **Must be at least three inches from any required lettering, lighting, wheel well, reflector or other safety features**
- **Shall not interfere with the operation of any doors or windows**
- **Shall not be placed on emergency exits**

Interior Bus Advertising Placement

- **Advertisements placed on the interior of buses must not be in size**
- **Maximum six advertisements per bus interior**
- **Must be at least three inches from any required lettering, lighting, wheel well, reflector or other safety features**
- **Shall not interfere with the operation of any doors or windows**
- **Shall not be placed on emergency exits**

School Bus Advertising Fund

Revenue raised from advertising contracts shall be remitted directly to the school district and held in subaccounts for the following purposes:

70% towards replacement of existing school bus fleet

20% towards programs determined by the school district

10% towards capital expenditures for school improvements

Rates and Fees for Advertising

- **Please review rate schedule attached:**

Per bus fee: \$25.00 per bus per day for minimum of 30 days

\$20.00 per bus per day for minimum of six months

\$15.00 per bus per day for one calendar year

Per bus minimum: 10 bus minimum...rate reduction for full fleet full year charge

Multi advertisement fees:

Size charge:

Exterior Advertisement:

Interior Advertisement:

Policy Adopted: CRANSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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